



MARCH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1972



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee

Chairman:- H. A. Orbell, Esq.

Councillors:- H. V. Aveling  
D. A. Dagless  
Mrs. D. Fleming  
M. K. Ogden  
Revd. Wm. C. Spooner  
G. E. Tribe

Medical Officer of Health

J. C. Burns, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.,  
County Hall, March. Telephone: March 2471

Public Health Inspector

H. Burton, M.A.P.H.I.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1972

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1972 together with a report from the Public Health Inspector.

I wish to record my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health, Housing and Plans Committee for their interest and support and to my colleagues on the Council's staff for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. C. BURNS

Medical Officer of Health.

General Statistics

Area in acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	19,786
Population (Registrar General's mid-year estimate for 1972)	14,360						
Number of inhabited houses	..	..	..	..			5,431
Number of dwellings owned by the Council	..	..					1,100
Rateable Value (at 1st April, 1973)	..	..	..				£1,291,389
Amount represented by estimated 1p. rate 1972/73	..						£12,550

The area of the Urban District remained unchanged at 19,786 acres and the estimated population increased by 130 to 14,360. Whilst the main forms of employment remain much the same as in former years it is noticeable that some useful changes are taking place. On the agricultural side mechanical equipment continues to expand and the allied undertakings associated with the preparation and packaging of vegetables has increased. In the industrial sphere useful additions have been established amongst which may be noted concrete pipe making, bag making, and metalwork.

..	203
..	14.1
..	4

..	4
..	19

.. 207

..	10
births	10
live births	NIL
00 total	
..	5
r 1,000	
..	5
1 week	
..	24
..	NIL
..	NIL
..	15.4



<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	-	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	3	2	5
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	2	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	15	-	15
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	5	5
Other Malignant Neoplasms	6	2	8
Diabetes Mellitus	3	2	5
Avitaminoses, etc.	1	-	1
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	-	1	1
Anaemias	1	-	1
Meningitis	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	-	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	2	2	4
Hypertensive Disease	1	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	32	20	52
Other forms of Heart Disease	12	10	22
Cerebrovascular Disease	19	20	39
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	6	5	11
Pneumonia	9	11	20
Bronchitis and Emphysema	7	1	8
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	1	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	-	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	1	4
All other Accidents	2	3	5
	<u>128</u>	<u>93</u>	<u>221</u>

The following table gives the percentage of deaths in the principal age groups:-

Under 1 year	.90
1 - 4 years	.46
5 - 14 years	.46
15 - 64 years	17.19
65 and over	80.99
	<u>100.00</u>

#### Prevalence and Control of Infectious Diseases

The following infectious diseases were notified during the year:-

Measles	5
Scarlet Fever	27
Infective Jaundice	1
Tuberculosis	1
Whooping Cough	1
	<u>35</u>

Once again it is worthwhile drawing attention to the fact that preventative immunisation is valuable against measles and whooping cough. Parents should therefore make use of the facilities available through their General Practitioners to provide the necessary protection for their children at an early age.

#### Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported during 1972.

#### National Assistance Act

No action was necessary under this Act during 1972.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1972 FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT  
COUNCIL OF MARCH IN THE COUNTY OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AND ISLE OF ELY

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration  
of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Inspections (3)	Number of Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities				
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	47	10	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	49	10	-	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred To H. M. Inspector (4)	By H. M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2				
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective					
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)					
TOTAL	2	-	-	-	-



PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work  (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
Wearing) Making etc. apparel)						
Cleaning & washing						
Household linen						
Lace, lace curtains and nets						
Curtains and furniture hangings						
Furniture and upholstery						
Electro-plate						
File making						
Brass and brass articles						
Fur pulling						
Iron and steel cables and chains						
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels						
Cart gear						
Locks, latches and keys						
Umbrellas, etc.						
Artificial flowers						
Nets, other than wire nets						
Tents						
Sacks	48					
Racquet and tennis balls						
Paper bags						
C/fwd.	48					



## PART VIII OF THE ACT (CONTD.)

OUTWORK

(Sections 133 and 134)

Nature of Work  (1)	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1)(c) (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (5)	Notices served (6)	Prosecutions (7)
B/fwd.	48					
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	1					
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding etc. of buttons etc.						
Stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolate and sweetmeats						
Cosaques, Christmas stockings etc.						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	49					

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MARCH

Public Health Inspector's Report for the year 1972

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The following are details of visits, interviews, inspections and re-inspections carried out in 1972:-

Accumulations	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Animals or Birds	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Ashes Accom.	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Cesspools	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Cold Store	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Drainage	..	..	..	..	..	..	57
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Fish Shops and Stalls	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Food Hygiene	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Food Prep. Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	18
Food Vans	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
General Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Housing P. H. Acts	..	..	..	..	..	..	163
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	36
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	255
Knackers Yards	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Laundrettes	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Market Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Meat Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
Noise	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Pet Animals Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Petrol	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
Piggeries	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Poultry Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Sanitary Accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	..	43
Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	609
Swimming Pool	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Vermin	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Vermin - R. & M.	..	..	..	..	..	..	147
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
							<hr/>
							1,718
							<hr/>

The following tables show defects found and remedied during the year by action under the various Acts.

	<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
<u>Sanitary Accommodation and Drains</u>		
Defective sanitary accommodation	1	1
Blocked and defective drains	12	12
<u>Infestations</u>		
Rats and mice (including visits by Rodent Operator)	100	100
Ants, etc.	2	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>
C/Fwd.	115	115

		<u>Defects found</u>	<u>Defects remedied</u>
B/fwd.		115	115
<u>Housing defects</u>			
Defective windows		2	2
" walls		3	3
" roofs		8	7
" floors		1	1
" ceilings		1	1
" gutters		1	-
" doors		1	1
" fireplace		1	1
" water-pipe		3	3
Accumulations		13	13
<u>Food Hygiene</u>			
Lack of Hot Water		1	1
Smoking in food premises		4	4
Cleanliness		5	5
Coding of Food		1	1
<u>Shops Act</u>			
Thermometer		1	1
Wash basin		1	1
Abstracts		2	2
Lifts		2	1
<u>Noise Abatement Act</u>			
Muffler on drill		2	2
<u>Factories Act</u>			
Cleanliness - W.C.		2	-
		<u>170</u>	<u>165</u>
<u>Table of Notices served during 1972</u>		<u>Served during</u> <u>1972</u>	<u>Complied with by</u> <u>31/12/72</u>
Public Health & Housing Acts	Verbal	31	29
	Letter	13	13
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	Verbal	100	100
Food Hygiene Regulations	Verbal	9	9
	Letter	1	1
Noise Abatement Act, 1960	Verbal	2	2
Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act, 1963	Verbal	4	4
	Letter	2	1
Factories Act	Verbal	2	-
		<u>164</u>	<u>159</u>
<u>Offices, Shops &amp; Railway Premises Act, 1963</u>			

Under the above Act, 179 premises are registered and 40 inspections were made during the year. The tables above show the defects found and remedied.



## HOUSING

Eleven houses were reported to the Council during 1972 for action under the Housing Act, 1957 and in each case a demolition order was made. Five families were rehoused during the year from this type of property.

## DRAINAGE

Substantial progress has been made with regard to the district's comprehensive sewerage scheme mentioned in previous reports. Phase I (namely electricity supply and effluent re-circulation at the main outfall works) has been approved and work actually commenced. Continued negotiations with the Department of the Environment have now resulted in final approval being given to the complete scheme.

## WATER SUPPLIES

The following is the information requested by the Ministry:-

- (a) whether the water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory in quality and in quantity;  
Yes.
- (b) where there is a piped supply, whether bacteriological examinations were made of the raw water and where treatment is installed, of the water going into supply; if so, how many and the results obtained; and the results of any chemical analyses; information on the fluoride content of the various supplies should be included wherever possible;

The following is the report of the Chemist and Bacteriologist of the Wisbech and District Water Board:-

"Frequent bacteriological examinations have been undertaken during 1972 on samples from the Board's sourceworks and the distribution system in this area. The results have been of a very high standard. Many chemical analyses have also been carried out.

All new mains were sterilised, samples taken and bacteriological examinations made before the mains were put into service. No connections were permitted until the water in the mains was of the highest standard of purity.

The fluoride content of a sample of water from the Water Board Offices, Oldfield Lane, Wisbech (mixture of water from Marham and Beechamwell) taken on the 29th December, 1972, was NIL."

Bacteriological Samples Taken in the March Urban District			
<u>Total Tests</u> <u>Taken</u>	<u>No. of Tests</u> <u>Negative</u>	<u>No. of Tests</u> <u>Positive</u>	<u>% Negative</u> <u>Tests</u>
53	53	0	100%

- (c) where the waters are liable to have plumbo-solvent action, the facts as to contamination by lead, including the precautions taken and the number and result of analyses;

The water is hard and has no plumbo-solvent action.

- (d) the action taken in respect of any form of contamination;

There has been no evidence of contamination during the year.

/(e)



## WATER SUPPLIES (CONTD.)

- (e) the number of dwelling houses and the number of the population supplied from public water mains (i) direct to the houses, and (ii) by means of stand-pipes.

(i) direct to houses	-	100%
(ii) by means of stand-pipes	-	Nil

## CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

There is one licensed site in the area for nine caravans and a further three licences are operative in respect of four caravans.

## SWIMMING POOL

The open air heated swimming pool (110' x 42') was opened in May, 1965 and in addition to the daily checks carried out by the staff, 12 samples were taken and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge. All were satisfactory. The water is chlorinated there being a six hour turnover.

There are three schools with swimming pools and satisfactory samples at monthly intervals were taken from each school during the summer.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

At present two premises are registered under the above Act and these are subject to inspection by the R.S.P.C.A. and myself.

## CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956 (as amended)

No applications were submitted for approval during 1972.

## RATS AND MICE

The refuse dumps are treated monthly and the sewers are dealt with annually. Infestation in the sewers is almost negligible.

Following the retirement of the Council's Rodent Operator, a private Contractor is now employed to deal with infestation generally. A free service is given when infestation occurs in private dwellings and shops.

## PETROLEUM (REGULATIONS) ACTS, 1928 AND 1936

Under the above Acts, 48 licences were issued for the storage of Petroleum Spirit, 1 for the storage of Calcium Carbide and 1 for the storage of Petroleum Mixtures.

## MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

### Slaughterhouses Act, 1958

Two slaughterhouses were licensed during 1972 and the number of animals killed during the year at the two slaughterhouses is as follows:-

378 Beasts, 374 sheep and 3,266 pigs and 2 goats giving a total of 4,020.

In order to inspect these animals a total of 609 visits was required to the two slaughterhouses.

14 slaughtermen's licences were issued during 1972.

Condemnations include the following whole carcasses:-

26 pigs, and one sheep, which, together with a quantity of offal and parts of carcasses brings the total weight of meat and offal condemned up to 1 ton, 19 cwts, and 21 lbs.

There is also one Knacker's Yard in this area.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned  
from 1st January, 1972 to 31st December, 1972

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	378	-	-	374	3,266	-
Number Inspected	378	-	-	374	3,266	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	25	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	-	56	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis	2.4	-	-	0.26	2.4	-
<u>Tuberculosis Only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	0.15	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-



## Food Hygiene

The Minister requests that reports of previous years should be amplified to include the following information:-

- (1) the number, if available, of food premises in the area by type of business:-

Green grocery	5
Grocery	23
Butchers	15
Fish shops	10
Bakehouses	3
Confectionery	13
Cafes and restaurants	7
Ice cream manufacturers	2
Chemists	4
Vegetable Processing Premises	4
	<hr/>
	86
	<hr/>

In addition, there are some 42 licensed premises including clubs.

- (2) the number of food premises by type registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, or under Local Acts:-

Premises registered for the sale of ice cream	37
Premises registered for the preparation of meat pies and sausages	15
Premises registered for the sale of fish and chips	10

- (3) the number of inspections of registered food premises with informative comment as necessary:-

Inspections of registered food premises and other food shops generally (including slaughterhouses) are shown on page 8.

- (4) any new educational activity and the progress of established educational activity:-

New posters are regularly exhibited relating to food hygiene and other matters.

- (5) the methods of disposal of condemned food:-

Where condemnation certificates are issued for tinned food etc. the food is collected and disposed of by the Council. Condemned meat at the slaughterhouses is collected by Contractors and processed.

- (6) where special examination of a stock or of a consignment of food has been necessary, the total quantity condemned:-

Page 11 shows the weight of meat condemned.

- (7) reference to the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952:-

10 samples of ice cream were taken during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service, Cambridge. All 10 samples were classified Grade 1.

At the end of the year 37 shops were registered for the sale of ice cream. There are two manufacturers in the area.

- (8) reference to the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1970:-

146 visits and re-visits were made to food premises during 1972 for compliance with the above Regulations. In addition 609 visits were paid to the local slaughterhouses.

### The Meat (Serilisation) Regulations, 1969

The above Regulations require meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilised before entering the chain of distribution. Notifications are received from Port Health Authorities of consignments of food to this area which are to be held in cold store pending disposal for sterilisation and in this respect 21 visits were paid to the Cold Store during 1972.

### The Food Hygiene (Markets, Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966

The above Regulations which became operative on the 1st January, 1967 lay down requirements as to food hygiene in respect of markets, stalls and delivery vehicles. In this respect regular visits are paid to the stalls on the market and mobile vans are inspected. Where contraventions on mobile vans are found the van owner is informed and also the Public Health Department in whose area the van is stationed and this system appears to work very well in practice.

### Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Two complaints were received - one regarding dogs barking and the other regarding noise from a factory which has since closed. In addition contractors were contacted where drills were being used not muffled.

### Poultry

Regular visits are paid to the local market where poultry carcasses are sold, the carcasses in this case having been 'plucked' but not eviscerated. A joint visit is paid with an inspector for the Food and Drugs Authority to the local Christmas poultry sales.

In conclusion I should like to take the opportunity of thanking the Members of the Council and my colleagues on the Staff for their helpful co-operation, and particularly Mr. Littler, the Clerk of the Council, for his valuable advice and assistance.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. BURTON,

Public Health Inspector.

29th August, 1973.





